

February 11

Proverbs 16:18

“End Result of Pride”



**Pride goeth before
destruction,
and an haughty spirit
before a fall.**

What is “pride” and a
“haughty spirit”?

Following are
words
and phrases
which are
associated with
both terms:

self-centeredness,
conceit, smugness,

narcissism,
arrogance, egotism,
vanity, selfishness,
self-righteousness,
self-importance,
snobbishness,
full of oneself,
puffed-up,
stuck-up,
overconfident,
me-first, putting
on airs and strutting
like a peacock.

However, the opposite
is humility.

Is anyone naturally
humble or is the
human heart, instead,
permeated with pride?

How can one
develop **humility**?
Many of us know, fully,
what pride looks like
because it is so common
and is even encouraged,
especially in westernized

societies, but what does
humility look like?
Only Christ can bring
about true humility
within our lives. We can
pretend for a while, but
when certain situations
present themselves, our
real selves show.

To see what humility
looks like, let's
consider an example:

A young, single man is in
need of transportation

primarily in order to
travel to and from work.

His old car recently
stopped working and no
public transportation
is available to him.

He goes to a car lot to
find a vehicle that runs
efficiently and is
reasonably priced.

Upon seeing a nice
car that fits his
specifications, the
young man asks for

information on
purchasing it.

The car salesperson talks about how a bigger and more fashionable car, which is located nearby, would be better. He talks about the comfort and amenities. He says how, though it is a bit more pricey and not great on saving gas or the environment, co-workers and especially young women will be much more

attracted to him if he buys the larger, more shiny car.

After patiently listening to the strong sales pitch, with a gentle smile, the young man politely says,

“I want a car that is practical. Miles per gallon and functionality is most important to me. If I can also contribute to the betterment of the environment, that’s great as well.

Thank you, but I need

transportation to
transport me, not to boost
my importance or
attractiveness to others.
Would you tell me more
about the car I'm asking
about first please?"

That mentality and
expression of humility
completely shut down the
auto salesperson's efforts
to appeal to pride. By
words and actions, the
young man showed that
he was humble and not

prideful. He didn't need to show off or to be built up by others.

Pride can be seen in different ways and situations. Likewise, humility is shown in a variety of ways. Humility allows Christ-like nature to be expressed even where differences exist.

It is a showing of humility to give equal consideration to all people

regardless to shade of
skin, social, political, or
financial standing, or
abilities.

It's pride, not humility,
which causes strife,
animosity, or harm
toward others based on
such temporal states of
being. It is pride which
brings about falls and
destruction.

Scripture does not say
how long it will be from
the time an act of pride

and haughtiness is
committed to the time
of the fall and
destruction. Often the
downfall is spiritual,
sometimes natural,
and sometimes both.

When falls and
destruction occurs
such long, long time
from the occurrence
of the act(s), often
people do not
make the
connection.

They don't see the cause-
and-effect relationship
of their behavior. Even so,
pride inevitably yields
un-goodness.

As for pride? Scripture
does not indicate it is, in
any way, a good thing.

Pride may appear to be
favorable, but it has
an end result—
destruction and a fall.